

Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday
Hours vary weekly.

<u>Staff</u>

Minister Christian Edu. Director Administrative Assistant Chancel Choir Directors

<u>Children's Choir Director</u> <u>Pianist</u>

Childcare Team

<u>Custodian</u> <u>Sexton</u> Rev. Elizabeth Hartung Robin Campos Alex Houle Leslie Inukai Doug Trumble Sondra Shatters Lori Runkle

Abby Goniwicha Dakota Shatters Hailey Shatters

Louise DeFuss

Shepherds

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Recording Secretary
Operations: Personnel
Operations: Bldg. & Grds
Operations: Finance
Information Services
Christian Education: Adult
Christian Education: Youth
Worship: Serving
Worship: Preparation
Church Family: Caring
Church Family: Fellowship
Service: Missions
Outreach/Welcoming

Carrie DeFuss
Sue Kimes
Aaron Shatters
Pam Campos
Tony Houle
Tim Andrus
Diane Stablein
Aimee List
Rachel Rebsom
Deanna Bazan
Kathy Wickens
Salli Walden
Laurie Houle
June Davis
Kathy Farren

Worship & Sunday School: 10:00 am Voyageurs: 9:00 am

The Happenings







Pastor's Porch

Angels Along the Way: A Personal Lenten Reflection

(an excerpt from my sermon on 3/9/2025)

I woke up this morning remembering a moment from 20 years ago—standing before a dozen doctors. They looked down on me, almost as if they were about to propose. My pastor was there, too. But let me back up...

At the time, I was 38 weeks pregnant with my youngest, Emelia, and had already experienced a couple of false labors—or maybe just wishful thinking. I wanted to have her when it was most convenient for her father's cancer treatments. But that night, it wasn't my labor that sent us to the hospital—it was Chris.

At 34 years old, and nine months pregnant, I somehow managed to get my 6-foot college linebacker husband into the car, drive him to the ER, push him inside in a wheelchair, and sit beside him as I felt the first real labor pains begin.

Our small community hospital didn't have a maternity wing, so I hoped to get Chris stabilized in the ICU while I delivered our baby elsewhere. As I sat there, every nurse who passed by knew I wasn't being honest when I insisted I was okay. **Nursing angels.** They kept checking on me anyway. Then, the ENT doctor shouted, "He has epiglottitis!"—a condition so rare that he pulled in half the ER to see it. (By the way, George Washington died of epiglottitis.) But this time, some medicines and interventions didn't exist in Washington's day, and soon, Chris was safely in the ICU, in the hands of more **nursing angels.**

Only then did I finally call my doctor. "You don't need to come in right now," he said, "but check in first thing in the morning." So I called my dear friend Debbie, who had walked with me through the start of our family's cancer journey. She met me at the hospital, and in that moment, I realized that God places people—**angels**—on our path to keep us from giving up. Sometimes, we don't realize how much that means until later.

By morning, I was anxious to deliver. Looking at the interns and nurses around me, not wanting to wait for my doctor, I asked, "You have delivered a baby before, right?" Then, I brought Emelia into the world in a room filled with **nursing angels**.

Chris was recovering in the ICU as I convinced the nurses to let me leave the hospital earlier than they wanted. Eventually, they relented—but not before they did something that meant the world to me: they faxed Chris a copy of Emelia's tiny footprints so he could see them from his hospital because the nurses connected us to Chris, I decided to have the full recovery in the hospital.

Seven years later, after multiple states and four different hospitals, we found ourselves at the end of a long cancer journey. At that moment, I met the same nurse—Rose—who told me she remembered Chris from all those years ago and had shown him Emelia's footprints. She had been there at the beginning, and now, she was there at the end.

As doctors and nurses filled the room that day, it almost looked like they were down on one knee in a solemn proposal. But it wasn't that—they had simply done everything they could and I know they had because I was able to answer, "Yes, we have insurance," the moment Chris was diagnosed with cancer. And when the doctor said, "You have options," I knew what he meant.

Chris lost his life that day. And yet, my faith grew. Because even in the pain and wilderness, God placed angels along my path—guiding, comforting, and sustaining me.

Lent is often described as a wilderness journey, when we walk through the unknown, trusting that God is still leading us forward. That day, my journey changed directions, and while I could not have imagined the road ahead, I knew I was never alone.

May we all recognize the angels along our path who carry us through when we cannot walk alone. May this Lenten season remind us that even in the wilderness, God is with us, leading us toward life, hope, and love.

Faith Moves Us Forward: A Lenten & Easter Journey

Just as God placed angels along my path in times of struggle, faith calls us to press on, even when the way is uncertain. This Lenten season, we are reminded that faith is not stagnant—it moves us forward, carrying us through the wilderness into acts of love, and toward the hope of resurrection. Each step, whether in hardship or joy, draws us deeper into God's transforming grace.

Lenten & Easter Sermon Series: Faith Moves Us Forward

April 6– Pressing On (Philippians 3:7-14)

"Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead."

April 13 – The Hero's Journey (Palm Sunday) (Luke 19:28-40)

"If these were silent, the stones would shout out."

April 17 – Love in Action (Maundy Thursday) (John 13:1-17, 31b-35)

"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

April 18 – Jesus Speaks (Good Friday – The Seven Last Words of Christ)

A reflective service on Christ's final words from the cross.

April 20 – The Power of Words (Easter Sunday) (Luke 24:1-12)

"Then they remembered his words."

April 27 – Earth Sunday (Psalm 150)

Creation sings God's praise—how do we join in?

Join us as we walk this sacred journey, pressing on in faith and trusting in God's presence every step of the way.

Peace in God's Love

Pastor Elizabeth



From the Desk of the Chair

"He is not here, but is risen!" Luke 24:6

As we await the joy of the return of the risen Savior, YCUCC is alive!

The sanctuary is adorned with beautiful, fragrant flowers courtesy of the generosity of each of you. A big *Thank You* to all of you who gave extra to donate to our shut-ins.

We collected enough to purchase extra flowers and now may even be able to plant some here at the church or donate them to the local nursing facilities in the area. What a wonderful problem to have!

The Spring rummage and bake sale when teamwork transforms the church into a world of wonder and awe for those looking for the biggest bargains and hidden treasure is upon us. A place where our doors are open to Refugee families to shop for necessities for their homes with many vouchers donated by some of you; again a big *Thank You*.

Some exciting new additions to keep an eye out for:

Care Team is sponsoring a Little Library and a Little Pantry. These are planned to be installed on the park side of the building before June. The library will hold books of varying age ranges to share with the community. There is no cost or check out needed. They are free for whoever would like them in an effort to encourage literacy and the love of reading to continue and grow. The pantry will be stocked with personal hygiene items, toiletries, non-perishable food and grab and go snacks. Donations will be accepted from anyone that would like to donate to either one of these projects as they will be ongoing and sustainable.

Come enjoy the beauty of the Spring after He has Risen with the Green Team at the Morton Arboretum on Saturday, April 26.

Upcoming events to be aware of:

April 6-10: Rummage Sale Set up

April 11-12: Rummage/Bake Sale

April 17: Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm

April 18: Good Friday Service 6:30 pm

April 20: Easter Breakfast 8:45 am to 9:45 am

April 26: Morton Arboretum Event

April 28: Lifeline Screening

As always, do not hesitate to reach out for any specific comments or concerns.

Blessings,

Carrie DeFuss

SLT Chairperson

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What's happening in Building and Grounds?

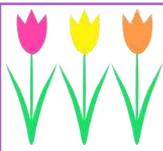
BUILDING & GROUNDS By Alex Houle, Admin Assistant

In the past month we have built and installed a new banner holder. This thing should last a while. It's made of 2½" steel square tubing with 3/8" thick walls and anchored in concrete. Tony Houle was kind enough to donate the materials and Turbo Joe Fabrication was happy to donate some beautiful welding. Go check it out on a nice day; it looks great. We are also doing lots of other little things to keep this place running well. Want to find out what?

B&G continues to meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00am.

Building and Grounds NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Over the next couple of years, we need new carpets in Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary. We also will need to get the parking lot repayed. And, we have 2 AC units and a boiler that are beyond their life expectancy. All that adds up to a lot of money.



April showers bring May flowers.

NO RAIN - NO FLOWERS!

Let Care Team be there for your showers or flowers. We are here for you.

Contact Pastor Elizabeth, Carrie DeFuss, or Salli Walden.

Confirmation Class Styrofoam Project

The confirmation class will begin their Styrofoam collection on April 13th. Donations will be available for collection until April 27th. You may drop off your Styrofoam in the two boxes located in the entryway of the church.





Kendall Area Transit (KAT) Dial-A-Ride-Services

Phone: (630)822-6970 TTY: (800) 526-0844 or 711 Voice: (800) 526-0857 or 711 Do you need transportation to and from appointments? What about the grocery store? Maybe a ride to church on Wednesday or Sunday? The Kendall Area Transit provides affordable transportation for individuals around and in the Kendall County area.

For more information about their hours, rates, and how to reserve a spot, call 630-822-6970 or visit their website https://vacdk.com/ transportation/kat-kendall-area-transit/

Information regarding the Kendall Area Transit can be found at the welcome center located in the Narthex.

Rain Gardens with the Green Team

Wouldn't it be great if you could undertake one pretty easy DIY project that would;

- -Improve the soil
- -Reduce flooding
- -Filter pollutants from run-off
- -Provide food and shelter for pollinators
- -and be a pretty addition to your property?

Interested?? Plan to attend the Green Team sponsored program featuring Alyce Olson, Resource Conservationist, as she walks us through the benefits and creation process of RAIN GARDENS!

May 1st from 6-7pm at YCUCC



All Church Outing to the Morton Arboretum

Saturday, April 26

Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. to carpool to the Arboretum

Explore the glorious grounds

Bring a picnic lunch

Celebrate the beauty of nature and the joy of fellowship

Discounted group rates for non-members are:

Seniors (65+) - \$11 Adults (18-64) - \$12

Children (4-17) - \$9 Children under 4 - free

The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, April 16.

Sponsored by the Green Team



MISSIONS MINISTRY NEWS April 2025

Our Soup Sunday on March 16, 2025 raised \$472.00 for YCUCC Youth to go to Tower Hill Summer Camp. Thank you all who contributed towards Soup Sunday, this includes everyone who contributed monetary or workers. Bless You All.

Coming Up - Sunday, April 27, 2025, Soup Sunday will benefit Vacation Bible School (VBS). This will be our last soup Sunday till fall time.

Calling All Members

Mark your calendars for the YCUCC Annual Meeting on **Sunday, May 18** following worship. There will be a vote on a change to the Bylaws involving the condensing of the SLT leadership team by eliminating the Information Shepherd position. We have found that the job description has changed leading to the reporting of these duties falling under the Outreach Shepherd.

Watch for members of the SLT at tables during coffee fellowship to answer questions in the upcoming weeks.



Spring Bake Sale!



Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th

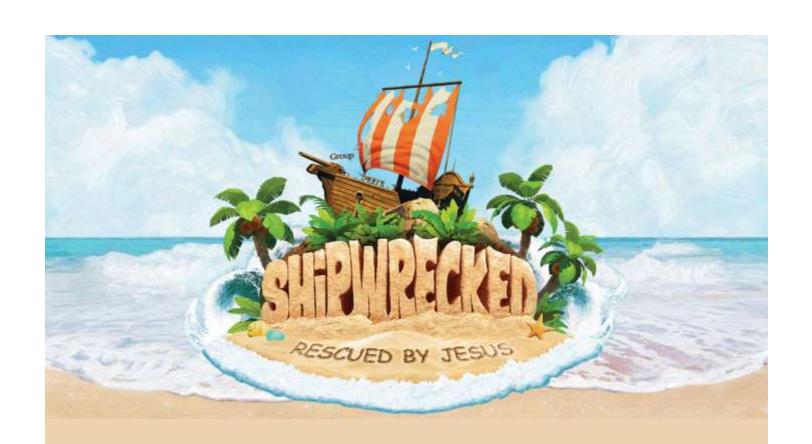
Look for the sign-up sheets coming soon!

Suggested items: Pies, Fudge, Brownies, Carrot Cake, Lemon Bars, or any of your favorites!

Items should be brought to the church for "plating" on Thursday, April 10th between 9 am and 6 pm.

Profits will go to Vacation Bible School.

Lets continue to make this a big event!



Join us for Vacation Bible School 2025!

July 6-10th 5:00-7:30 pm NOW FREE!

Registration opens May 1st for all students ages 3-12.







YCUCC'S 2025 SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE FRIDAY, APRIL 11™ & SATURDAY, APRIL 12™









SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: WEEK OF THE 2025 SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Sunday, 4.6 Set-Up Crew begins immediately following the Worship Service

Drop off Rummage Sale donations: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers: sorting/organizing

Monday, 4.7 Drop off Rummage Sale donations: 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

 Call Tony Houle/B&G at 815-546-1061 to schedule a rummage sale donation pickup (Noon – 3:00 p.m.).

Volunteers: sorting/organizing

Tuesday, 4.8 Drop off Rummage Sale donations: 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

 Call Tony Houle/B&G at 815-546-1061 to schedule a rummage sale donation pickup (Noon – 3:00 p.m.).

Volunteers: sorting/organizing

Wednesday, 4.9 Volunteers continue sorting/organizing: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, 4.10 Volunteers finalize sorting/organizing/pricing: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Bake Sale Donations: Deliver between 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, 4.11 1st Sale Day: 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 4.12 2nd Sale Day: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; \$3-a-Bag Sale | ½ price day

Tear-Down Crew begins promptly at NOON

 Box/Bag up remaining items for a 1:00 p.m. pickup for Wayside Cross.

Bag remaining clothing & shoes to donate to KCCFP.

* VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE POSTED IN THE NARTHEX*

~ ~ THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT ~ ~

Peg Trumble - J.O.Y. Circle/Rummage Sale Chair piltrumble@comcast.net 630-768-5924 (C)

Sandy Lindblom - Bake Sale Chair slind55378@aol.com 630-553-6214 (H)



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

In January, the President gave an executive order to halt all refugees from entering the US and to stop all funding for the ten not-for-profit settlement agencies, including World Relief.

In January, World Relied accepted 387 refugees for settlement in the Chicago area. These newly arrived people were promised assistance for housing and help with getting employed, with English learning, and community information, such as using Food Pantries and getting children enrolled in schools.

Because World Relief organization is basically shuttered, churches and individuals are stepping up to give much-needed assistance to newly arrived refugees.



HOW CAN WE AT YOUCC HELP THE RECENTLY ARRIVED REFUGEES?



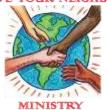
- Make-a-donation for a Refugee Voucher to be used at our 2025 Spring Rummage & Bake Sale, scheduled for April 11th & 12th. The voucher tags with instructions for giving are on the Giving Tree in the Narthex.
- Consider serving a local family as an English tutor. You do not have to have a background as a teacher. Anyone can do it!
- Consider signing up with World Relief to be a "friend" to a local refugee family. You, or a Friend Team of two or three, can work together to help refugees by checking on the family once a week, take them to the food pantry or to a medical appointment, or to help them navigate the school system for their children. It's easy and very rewarding.

~ Thank you for your time & considerations ~

Love Your Neighbor

As the worldwide refugee crisis increases, the Love Your Neighbor ministry is offering you the opportunity to see life through the eyes of two sisters and their cousin as they leave their families and flee Syria. Base on their true story, the movie "The Swimmers" will reveal the immense trials and eventual triumphs of their refugee journey.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



The movie will be shown in the Fellowship Hall in conjunction with Soup Sunday on April 27th. Come enjoy a movie with your soup!



Sound System Phase III Update

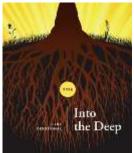
Whether you attend worship services in person or online, you have likely noticed our improved sound system over the last year. We started by replacing our original mixing board which allows us to control microphones and adjust, and then we added a new pulpit microphone and hearing assistance units. These items were paid for using Memorial Funds. We are now ready for Phase III (final phase) when we upgrade our handheld microphone system, replace our outdated lapel microphone, and replace the antiquated frequency splitter which directs signals within the sanctuary (the old one is in violation of FCC rules). We are inviting you, our congregants, to participate in this final phase as we bring our technology up to date and regulation. You will find tags on the Giving Tree marked "Phase III Sound System", and we encourage you to consider donating to this project. Thanks to each and every one of you for your ongoing support.



Adult Education

April sees the church calendar switch from the season of Lent to the season of Eastertide on Easter Sunday. We continue our Lent observations and practices that will end as we celebrate Easter Sunday. After that, we will go into what is known as Eastertide. Eastertide is a 50-day season that begins on Easter Sunday and ends on Pentecost Sunday, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Plan faithful ways to celebrate the season. There are a lot of good ideas here: Celebrate Easter's 50 Days | The Word Among Us.

Spiritual Development Group



The Spiritual Development Group will discuss the United Church of Christ's Still Speaking Writers group's 2025 Lent Devotional, *Into the Deep.* The discussion will be held on Google Meets on April 1 and April 15. Anyone is welcome to join.

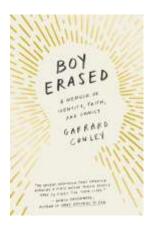
The Spiritual Development Group will read and discuss *Boy Erased* on April 29 and May 13. The *Boy Erased* movie discussion will be on May 27. The movie The *Boy Erased* is playing on Netflix.

"A beautiful, raw and compassionate memoir about identity, love and understanding. Now a major motion picture starring Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, and Lucas Hedges…" (Goodreads)

Watch the author interview here:

#VelshiBannedBookClub goes deep with Garrard Conley on 'Boy Erased'

Aimee List ajlsan1@hotmail.com



Rev. Michael Obenauer has gone home to God and left behind his spirit of faith and service. I recently listened to his sermon, "Spirit-Led Swing," and found 10 life lessons that guided his ministry.

Transformation → "Sometimes it's back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. But if you allow it to swing, it will change your life."

Growth \rightarrow "Whenever you think that you have to live up to a teaching that you learned several years ago, maybe in childhood, and you've been holding yourself to that teaching, remember the swing."

Hope → "Rejoice in hope. If you're like me, there are times when I have trouble seeing anything hopeful around. And that's when I find myself either in depression or anxiety in that cycle. Or I pull myself up and out and I reflect on what gives me hope."

Justice \rightarrow "When you agree to welcome someone, you do more than welcome them as they come in the door. There's a social justice element that is making sure that people have a place not only here, but out there."

Service → "You served me in a way that I could not serve myself."

Love → "Let love be genuine. Hate what is evil. Hold fast to what is good. Love one another with mutual affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

Faith \rightarrow "Go to your well of hope and find meaning. And it will feed your faith. It will be a light to your path."

Forgiveness → "Bless those who persecute you. Don't hit them back. Bless them."

 $Wisdom \rightarrow$ "Remember the swing. You know, yeah, I learned that from my teaching, but I also learned this from my living."

Impact → "You make a difference in this world."

Peace in the promise of the Resurrection, Pastor Elizabeth

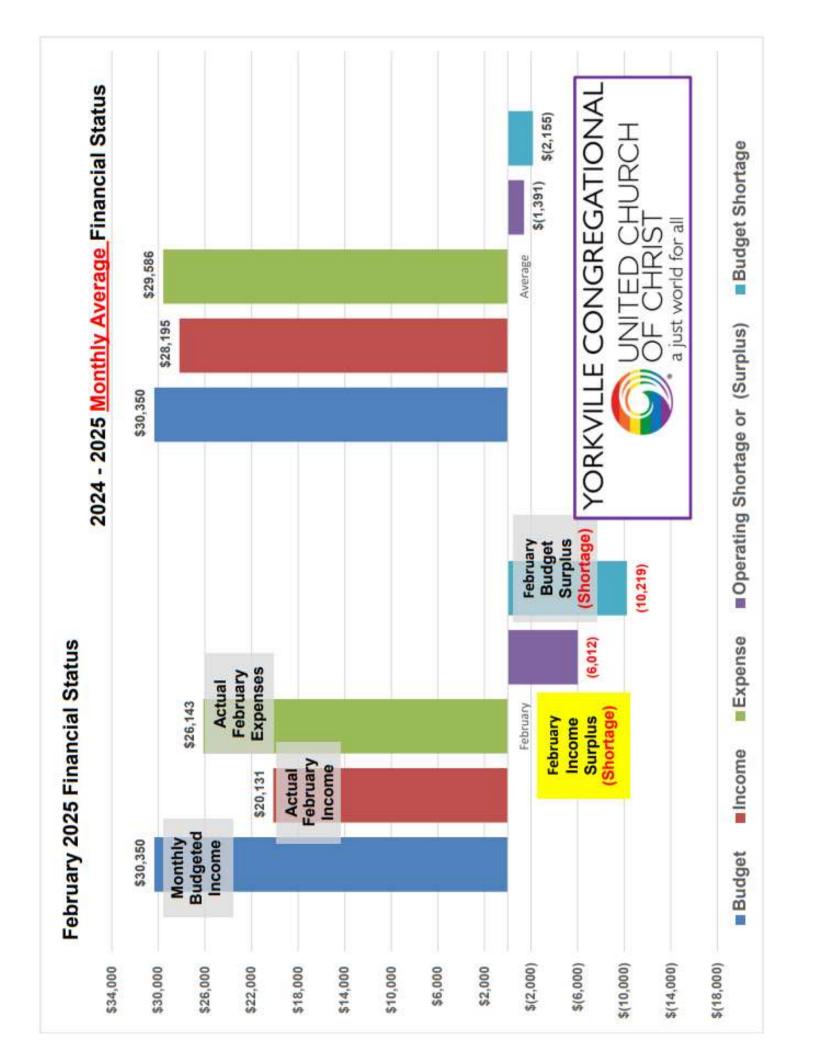
Join us for Holy Week!

Maundy Thursday Service — April 17th at 7:00 pm (w/ Childcare)

Good Friday Service — April 18th at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday Service — April 20th at 10:00 am

(w/ Childcare)



Those Grieving:

The Perkins Family

Those in Cancer Treatment:

Pearl Undesser



Health Concerns:

Fred Anderson
Deb Bezroukoff
Rick Falato
Andy Hamblin
Gayle Jacobs
Wyatt Jones
Jonathan Lamp

General Concerns:

The Prochaska Family
The Mendell Family
The Hughes Family

Homebound/Assisted Living:

Fred Anderson, Myrah Baldwin, Delores Cruise, Pat Dietz, Dave Encinas, Gayle Jacobs, and Fred Wayne

Dale Perkins

Finley Walker

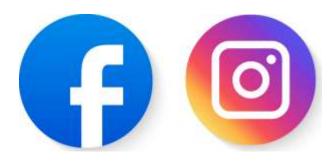
Do you have an event or a memory from a past church event that you would like to feature on the YCUCC Facebook and Instagram?

Let us know by completing the Google Form.

There is no deadline for requesting a social media post. However, we ask that you complete one form for each posting with at least one week's notice.

https://forms.gle/5tmLwfyAyosiXAGz9

If you have any questions, you may reach out to Pastor Elizabeth, Diane Stablein, Robin Campos, or you may call the office.



עווו במכם (הפוווומו ווווום - היווחמות 13 26 40 67 Morton Arboretum Event : 6:30pm - Good Friday Service 9:15am - Daybreak E GOOD FRIDAY 10 24 Newsletter Articles Due 7pm - Maundy Thursday 6pm - Finance Meeting 7pm - SLT Meeting 3:30pm - Homework Club 3:30pm - Homework Club 3:30pm - Homework Club 3:30pm - Homework Club 5:30pm - Sonshine Choir 6pm - Pastoral Care 7pm - Youth Group 7pm - Youth Group 7pm - Youth Group 7pm - Youth Group 6pm - Youth Choir 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - Adult Choir 5pm - Bible Study 7pm - Adult Choir Wed 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Dinner 5pm - Dinner 5pm - Dinner 5pm - Dinner 22 9:30am - Breathe Life Tai Chi 7pm - SDG Book Discussion-9am - Building and Grounds 9am - Building and Grounds 10:30am - Staff Meeting 10am - Pastoral Care Tue Election Day 7pm - SDG 7pm - SDG 28 21 8am - Lifeline Screenings OFFICE CLOSED-Easter 6:30pm - Green Team Mon 7pm - Outreach 13 30 27 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Confirmation Class 11am - Soup Sunday (VBS) 11am - LYN Movie Event -11am - Coffee Fellowship 8:45am - Easter Breakfast 9am - NO 7-12 Voyageurs 11am - Coffee Fellowship 11:15am - Worship Team Rummage and Bake Sale 10am - Sunday School & 10am - Worship (Earth 9am - 7-12 Voyageurs 9am - 7-12 Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School 9am - 7-12 Voyageurs 10am - Sunday School I COCO CIURCII CARRINAI 11:15am - Care Team NO Sunday School 10am - Worship 10am - Worship 10am - Worship Easter Sunday

Fifth Sunday i	n Lent
/IOLET	
Phil 3:4b-14	

Palm Sunday

VIOLET Luke 19:28-40

Maundy Thursday

WHITE

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

BLACK

Seven Last Words of Christ

Second Sunday of Easter

WHITE Ps 150

April Anniversaries	
4/06 Tony & Pam Campos	34 Years
4/12 John & Ruth Morello	39 Years
4/15 Ron & Deb Bezroukoff	30 Years
4/19 Chuck & Deb Steinbach	44 Years
4/26 Tim & Laurie Strong	39 Years



Date	Acolytes	Liturgists	Sermon Titles
4/06	Penelope Skinner	Carrie DeFuss	Pressing On
4/13	Jacob DeFuss	Carrie DeFuss	The Hero's Journey
4/20	Isabelle Shatters	Sandy Lindblom	The Power of Words
4/27	Benjamin DeFuss	Sandy Lindblom	Earth Sunday

Our Mission Statement

To live as Jesus lived: Love without Judgement, Welcome without Exception, Serve with Compassion, Teach by Example.

Our Vision Statement

God's community of unconditional love, made real for everyone, everywhere.

Open & Affirming Covenant

YCUCC is an open and affirming congregation that seeks to meet each child of God—persons from the full diversity of creation including gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and intellectual ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure—where they are on life's journey as together we seek to transform all our lives through Christ's Gospel.

Watch our church services on the internet!!

Facebook: Click here OR

- 1. Go to our YCUCC Facebook page.
- Click on the videos tab on the left side of the home page.
- 3. Scroll down to select the appropriate sermon date.
- 4. Click the arrow to view the sermon video.

Website: Click here OR

- 1. Go to our YorkvilleUCC.org home page.
- 2. Click on the Worship/ Media Tab.
- 3. Scroll down to select the appropriate sermon date.
- 4. Click the arrow to view the sermon video.

YouTube.com: Click here OR

- 1. Go to the search bar.
- 2. Type in "Yorkville Congregational United Church of Christ".
- 3. Click on the channel.
- 4. Select the appropriate sermon date.
- 5. Click the arrow to view the sermon video.

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April 2024



